Assistance to States

1868. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government of West Bengal for assistance to modernize the agricultural systems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (d) The Union Government has not received any proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for special assistance to modernize the agricultural systems. However, the Government of West Bengal is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for modernization of agricultural systems in the State. These include Macro Management Scheme, Technology Mission on Cotton, On-Farm Water Management, Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP), Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP), Establishment of Agency for Reporting Statistics (EARAS) and Agriculture Census for which a total sum of Rs. 3237.50 lakh has been allocated by the Centre to West Bengal for the year 2003-04.

Spurious BT cotton seeds in Gujarat

1869. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report that spurious hybrids of BT Cotton has found a place in Gujarat as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of other similar incidents in other parts of the country, State-wise;

(d) whether Government have streamlined BT Cotton production;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has been requested to take action against the manufacturers and vendors of spurious BT. Cotton seeds under the Rules for Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Seeds Act, 1966, and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. The Government of Gujarat have filed FIRs in four cases.

(c) There have been unconfirmed reports of production and sale of spurious BT. Cotton seeds in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

(d) to (f) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) accorded conditional clearance for introduction of three BT. Cotton hybrids namely BT MECH-12, BT MECH-162 and BT MECH-184 in the environment for a period of three years from April, 2002. The Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company is producing BT. Cotton seeds accordingly for sale in the southern and central regions of the country.

Production of Rice

1870. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of rice, State-wise;

(b) what is the overall consumption of rice in the country;